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#### HOW TO CALL TIMES-DISPATCH.

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MONDAY, MARCH 2, 1908.

The fact that a new thought has dawned within your breast should apprise you that in the same hour a new light broke in upon a thousand private hearts.—Emerson.

#### PROHIBITION IN VIRGINIA.

Virginia has been placed in the list of prohibition States, and so quietly was the thing done that we doubt if the people at large really understood that it was being done.

But statutory prohibition has been accomplished by the passage of the Byrd bill. As was explained in The Times-Dispatch of yesterday, when this law takes effect retail liquor license cannot be granted in county districts or in towns of less than 500 inhabitants, based upon the last preceding United States census, unless the community be within a county contiguous to a city having police protection paid for by the public, and where license has been granted during the twelve months prior to the date of the passage of this act, or less it be to a hotel or social club at a health resort having a natural mineral spring connected therewith, or situated by the sea, or on any large body of salt water connected therewith. This means prohibition for the country districts and all towns under 500 inhabitants, with the exceptions noted above.

In the view of The Times-Dispatch, the entire law is fundamentally wrong. There may be to be in Virginia of 300 and 400 inhabitants, or rural districts here and there, in which the voters thereof prefer the licensed saloons, with the regulations of law thrown around them, but they will have no option in the matter. They must have prohibition whether or not. Local option, except in the localities above noted, has been abolished in Virginia, and we have grave doubts as to the wisdom of it. Local option is a Democratic fundamental, and the party in Virginia has always taken pride in the principle, which it has so often declared for in its platforms. But the Legislature of Virginia, which is composed in large part of Democrats, has abandoned and abolished it without having given the people the privilege of voting on it. This is one case in which Mr. Bryan's referendum should have been applied, as was done in North Carolina.

But law is law, and now that a prohibition law has been enacted, it should be enforced to the letter. It matters not whether the people like it or not, the law must be obeyed. If the people do not like it, let them instruct the next Legislature to repeal it, but while the law lives it must rule. The officers of the law must do their duty. It is a great opportunity for Virginia to set an illustrious example. There must be no sham laws in the Old Dominion.

#### NO GAMBLING FOR VIRGINIA.

The analysis of House bill No. 421, entitled "A bill to establish a State Breeders' Association," by Crandall Mackey, of Alexandria, discloses the immense dangers involved in that legislation.

This bill has already been commented upon in the news columns of The Times-Dispatch, but it remained for Mr. Mackey to explain how, in his opinion, its passage will foster and protect race-track gambling. Virginia is at present free from the leprous influence of St. Asaph's, and no alluring promises of material gain could or should tempt the Legislature to pass a bill under which the curse of bookmaking and poolrooms can again be fastened on our people. No gambling is as pernicious, as far-reaching and as universally destructive of men and morals as that which follows and depends upon the race-course. The Legislature is now warned, and there can be no excuse for passing a bill which on its face is open to such grave criticism.

#### THE FARMVILLE NORMAL.

In saying the other day that the new normal school should do work on more practical lines, we may have unintentionally done the Farmville Normal an injustice. That institution has a fine training school for kindergartners, and has graduated two classes. Manual training has been a regular part of the course for the past four years, and no student graduates without taking enough manual training to enable her to teach it.

One of the seniors taught the manual training in the summer school at Farmville last year, and others (graduates) are teaching it in the State. Nature study is a part of the curriculum, and is emphasized, especially, along agricultural lines. Domestic science is being taught this year, and the board has already provided for a department of household economics, which, of course, includes domestic science. The Legislature is asked for money to erect a science and industrial building, which will make it possible to have this department thoroughly equipped.

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Secretary Taft says that it is "no-body's business where the feet is going." As Commodore Vanderbilt remarked, hang the public, anyway.

There is always a silver lining. At the rate things are going in Kentucky, it won't be long before we can blame the night-riders on the Republicans.

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